



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cabrillo National
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CABRILLO News Release (REISSUED)

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A Whale of a Sea-lebration at Cabrillo National Monument

[Point Loma, San Diego, California] Superintendent Terry DiMattio invites everyone to a *Whale of a Sea-lebration* during the annual Whale Watch Weekend and Intertidal Life Festival at Cabrillo National Monument, San Diego's only unit of the National Park System, on January 27-28, 2007, from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. This family-oriented event, which started in the late 1980s as Whale Watch Weekend, celebrates the return of the Pacific gray whales to Point Loma as part of their annual, round-trip migration from Baja California, Mexico to Alaska and the intertidal life found in the tidepool area on the monument's western shore. Said DiMattio, "this is a wonderful opportunity for families and visitors of all ages to see and learn about gray whales and other marine mammals, as well as the fascinating and sensitive intertidal area." Each year, an estimated 20,000 gray whales in the Eastern Pacific herd return from Alaskan waters to warm, shallow lagoons in Baja California to give birth and find mates, making their 12,000 roundtrip migration the longest of any mammal in the world, while the tidepools of Cabrillo NM are among the best examples of intertidal habitat on the Southern California coast.

Whales and sea anemones will not be the only show for visitors, however. This exciting weekend will also feature guest speakers who will share their expertise on gray whales and other cetaceans and intertidal habitat and ecology. On Saturday **Park Ranger Patricia Heusner of Cabrillo National Monument** will present *How to See What's in the Sea!* (helpful hints for making your own sea-life discoveries) at 10:00 AM; **Rosemary Troian, of the NOAA Marine Fisheries Service**, will present *A Whale of a Tale* (whale migration and other facts about whales) with at 1:00 PM and **Bernardo Alps, of the American Cetacean Society**, will present



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the Friendly Gray Whales of Laguna San Ignacio at 3:00 PM. On Sunday **Crystal De Soto, of the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Education Department**, will present ***Life On the Rocks is No Day at the Beach*** (survival strategies of tidepool invertebrates) at 11:00 AM; **Patricia Schick, of the Sea World Education Department**, will give a present ***Whale Diversity*** (a comparison of baleen and toothed whales and some aspects of whale behavior and natural history) at 12:00 PM; **Rosemary Troian** will present ***A Whale of a Tale*** (whale migration and other facts about whales) with at 1:00 PM; and **Serge Dedina, PhD, Executive Director of Wild Coast and author of *Saving the Gray Whale***, will present ***Saving the Gray Whale*** (about his experiences with gray whales in Baja California, Mexico) at 3:00 PM. On both days, there will also be presentations of ***On the Edge of Land and Sea: The Tidepools of Cabrillo National Monument***, a National Park Service film, at 11:00 AM on Saturday and 10:00 AM on Sunday, ***A Whale of a Tale***, an always popular puppet show about the gray whale migration, at 2:00 PM and ***First Breath: Gray Whale***, a Hardy Jones/Julia Whitty film, at 4:00 PM. Exhibitors will provide activities and information about whales, tidepools and their organizations both days in the visitor center breezeway and “View Building” from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Confirmed exhibitors are Cabrillo National Monument Foundation, Birch Aquarium at Scripps, Sea World, the San Diego Maritime Museum and Wild Coast (Sunday Only). Park rangers and Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs) will assist visitors in spotting whales and exploring the monument’s tidepool area. The best locations to watch for whales are on the bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean, so bring binoculars and dress warmly. Low tides of 0.0 will take place at 11:48 AM on Saturday and -0.6 at 12:46 PM on Sunday. There is very limited parking at the tidepools. However, free shuttles will run between the visitor center and the main tidepool parking area between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM on Saturday and 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. ***On the Edge of Land and Sea: The Tidepools of Cabrillo National Monument*** will be available for purchase on DVD, along with books and educational materials about whales and tidepools, in monument’s bookstore, which is operated by our non-profit cooperating association, the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation, which has supported interpretive, educational and scientific research activities at Cabrillo NM for 50 years.

All events are included with the regular park entrance fee of \$5.00 per vehicle and \$3.00 for motorcyclists, bicyclists and walk-ins (valid for 7 days from date of purchase). Holders of an America the Beautiful Interagency Pass or Cabrillo National Monument Annual Pass will be

admitted free of charge upon presentation of their pass. Both passes may be purchased at
Cabrillo NM.

Funding for the 2007 Whale Watch Weekend and Intertidal Life Festival is generously provided
by the Hattie Ettinger Conservation Fund , Cox Communications  and the Hutsel Family.

Cabrillo National Monument, located on Point Loma at the south end of Catalina Boulevard, is
open daily from 9:00 AM until 5:15 PM. Public transportation (#28 Bus) is available hourly to
the upper area of the monument only, from the Old Town Transit Center. For additional
information call 619-557-5450 or TTY 619-222-8211, or visit our web site at
<http://www.nps.gov/cabr>.

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